



Massachusetts National Guard

Public Affairs

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News Release

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Massachusetts Reimburses Members for Life Insurance Premiums

MILFORD, Mass. -- The Massachusetts National Guard announced today its soldiers and airmen from across the commonwealth received reimbursement checks from the state as part of the Welcome Home Bill, which was passed into law November 2005.

As part of the bill, Massachusetts pays 50 percent of Guard members' monthly Soldiers Group Life Insurance program premiums for policies worth up to \$400,000, or 50 percent of an equivalent group life insurance program premium, provided that program's premium does not exceed the SGLI premium.

Implementing the program proved to be a challenge, however, because the Guard members' pay is funded federally, while the Welcome Home Bill is a state-funded program. Ultimately, it was decided the best solution was to send a check reimbursing the Massachusetts Guard soldiers and airmen for the insurance payments.

"Reimbursement was the only viable option; we couldn't do it through the federal pay system," said Joseph Wolfgang, Massachusetts National Guard director of administration and finance. "The Adjutant General determined the best solution was to send a reimbursement check annually, on the anniversary of the bill's passage."

Each Guard member received up to \$165, but many were surprised by the check. "I thought, 'Wow, free money,'" said Chief Warrant Officer Doreen Rose, of the Massachusetts National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Milford, Mass.

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Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, said he was grateful to Gov. Mitt Romney, State Sen. Stephen Brewer, State Rep. Anthony Verga and other government officials for their work on the bill. "It's a great holiday gift to our soldiers and airmen, and another example of the outstanding support the commonwealth has shown its service members," Mason concluded.

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